



**Date:** June 20, 2001  
**To:** IRP Legislative Committee Members  
**From:** Staff  
**RE:** Letter to Senator Torlakson

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At the January 31<sup>st</sup> IRP meeting, members raised concerns about the Pilot Program being under the sole supervision of the State Department of Housing and Community Development. They reasoned that potential developers of employment oriented opportunity zone sites might be discouraged about the prospect of having to coordinate their activities with a housing agency.

Staff was directed to draft a letter to Senator Tom Torlakson, author of the Pilot Program legislation, asking his consideration of having the Department of Trade and Commerce co-manage the program.

**Requested Action**

Review and approve the attached letter for mailing to Senator Torlakson.

**INTER-REGIONAL  
PARTNERSHIP**  
Alameda County  
Contra Costa County  
San Joaquin County  
Santa Clara County  
Stanislaus County



June 20, 2001

Senator Tom Torlakson  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Dear Senator Torlakson:

Thank you for your immeasurable support and assistance in the passage of the jobs/housing legislation, AB 2864. Your commitment to regional issues in California, especially concerning jobs, affordable housing and transportation, has been invaluable to the success of the Inter-Regional Partnership. As a new State Pilot Project, the Inter-Regional Partnership will continue to address the impacts of the jobs/housing imbalance; including traffic congestion, air quality, and other quality of life factors.

The IRP has made significant progress towards its goals as outlined in the legislation. At its January meeting, the IRP moved forward in establishing the incentives program for the jobs/housing opportunity zones and made considerable progress toward developing usable GIS data to assist in future decision making.

Also at the January 2001 IRP meeting, the members raised a concern that the administration of the Inter-Regional Partnership State Pilot Project falls exclusively under the State Department of Housing and Community Development. The IRP members agreed that the project's economic development goals might be promoted further and supported if administration of the project was shared in part by the State Department of Trade and Commerce. As an agency committed to promoting the state's economic development, Trade and Commerce can perhaps offer support for the other half of the jobs/housing imbalance equation, namely economic development near affordable housing.

We are interested in any opportunity that may exist in addressing this matter and therefore furthering the goals of the State and the Inter-Regional Partnership.

Respectfully,

The Inter-Regional Partnership